# State of Nevada
# Natural Resource Plan

# Glossary

**Adaptive Management** — An approach to natural resources management focused on integrating scientific knowledge and experience for the purposes of understanding and managing natural systems. It is practiced through scientifically-based management experiments that test predictions and assumptions in management plans, and then using the resulting information to improve management programs and strategies. Adaptive management requires that agencies periodically review progress toward ecosystem goals, and adjust their management activities affecting the ecosystem as necessary. Adaptive management implies implementation of a rigorous process, well grounded in its understanding of ecological, social and economic factors, and the interactions among them. It requires ongoing testing and evaluation of the impacts of management decisions. Such testing must be based on systematic program design, research, monitoring and evaluation. An effective adaptive management approach requires an interagency organizational commitment over an extended period of time, and an ability to deal with the setbacks and frustrations that are unavoidable consequences of experimentation.

**Agroforestry** — The intentional integration of agriculture and forestry practices to attain more productive, profitable, and sustainable ecosystems. Agroforestry practices in Nevada include alley cropping, windbreaks, riparian buffers, stream bank bioengineering, living snow fences and wildlife habitat. Agroforestry is a key component of the NDF Forest Stewardship Program. (*Nevada Forest Stewardship Program, Five Year Plan, 1997 - 2002*, prepared by NDF Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, December 1997).

**Alternative livestock** — Species and subspecies of the family Cervidae, if they are born in captivity and raised on private property to produce meat or other by-products of animals or as breeding stock to produce alternative livestock: 1) Fallow deer (Dama dama); 2) Reindeer (Rangifer tarandus); and 3) Rocky Mountain Elk (Cervus elaphus nelsoni). NRS 501.003

**Aquaculture** — The science, art, and business of cultivating marine or freshwater food fish or shellfish, such as oysters, clams, salmon, and trout, under controlled conditions for commercial purposes.

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern** — Any area in this state where there is or could develop irreversible degradation of more than local significance but does not include an area of depleting water supply which is caused by the beneficial use or storage of water in other areas pursuant to legally owned and fully appropriated water rights. (NRS 321.655)

**Best Management Practice (BMP)** — Generally, a natural resource management practice that have been determined to effectively and efficiently prevent, mitigate or dampen undesirable environmental impacts associated with human activities. BMPs are widely accepted practices are associated with water quality protection and improvements and may involve controlling erosion, removing pollutants or modifying land use activities contributing to nonpoint source pollution. Structural (e.g., rock riprap, concrete stormwater conveyances, sedimentation

basins) and nonstructural (e.g., planting, wetland creation, land use planning) are two broad categories of BMPs used to reduce pollution from a nonpoint source.

**Biodiversity** — (1) The variety of life and its processes. Biodiversity includes the diversity of landscapes, communities, and populations (genetic variation). (2) Refers to the variety and variability of life, including the complex relationships among microorganisms, insects, animals, and plants that decompose waste, cycle nutrients, and create the air that we breathe. Diversity can be defined as the number of different items and their relative frequencies. For biological diversity, these items are organized at many levels, ranging from the entire ecosystem to the biochemical structures that are the molecular basis of heredity. Thus, the term encompasses different ecosystems, species, and genes. It is generally accepted that human survival is dependent upon the conservation and preservation of this diversity of life forms. Typically five levels of biodiversity are recognized:

[1] ***Genes*** – Genetic diversity encompasses the variety of genetically coded characteristics of plant and animal populations.

[2] ***Species*** – The level at which most organisms are recognizable as distinct from all others.

[3] ***Populations*** – Groups of individuals of a species that interbreed or interact socially in an area.

[4] ***Natural Communities*** – Groups of species that typically occur in recognizable units, often designated by dominant plant species, such as sagebrush shrubland, juniper woodland, or cottonwood riparian land. A natural community includes all the vegetation and animal life, and their interactions within that community.

[5] ***Ecosystems*** – A collection of natural communities. An ecosystem can be as small as a rotting log or a puddle of water, but current management efforts typically focus on larger landscape units, such as a mountain range, a river basin, or a watershed.

**Biota** — The plant and animal life of a region or ecosystem, or in a stream or other body of water.

**Christmas Tree** — Any evergreen tree, which includes pine, juniper, fir, incense cedar, spruce and hemlock species.

**Conservation** — (1) Increasing the efficiency of energy use, water use, production, or distribution. (2) The careful and organized management and use of natural resource, for example, the controlled use and systematic protection of natural resources, such as forests, soil, and water systems in accordance with principles that assure their optimum long-term economic and social benefits. Also, preservation of such resources from loss, damage, or neglect.

**Conservation District** — A governmental subdivision of this state, and a public body which is organized in accordance with he provisions of NRS Chapter 548. (NRS 548.032) It is a special purpose district for the purposes of developing and implementing a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, vegetation and other renewable natural resources of local interest. Chapter 548 also provides for the establishment of the State Division of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission. The Commission is empowered to carry out the policies of the state in programs at the state level for the conservation of renewable natural resources and to represent the state in matters affecting such resources. Duties of the Commission are implemented with the support by DCD staff, and include facilitating, promoting, assisting, harmonizing, coordinating and guiding the programs

and activities of districts as they relate to other special-purpose districts, counties and other public agencies.

**Controlled fire** — The controlled application of fire to natural vegetation under specified conditions and after precautionary measure have been taken to ensure that the fire is confined to a predetermined area.

**Ecosystem** — (1) A community of animals, plants, and bacteria, and its interrelated physical and chemical environment. An ecosystem can be as small as a rotting log or a puddle of water, but current management efforts typically focus on larger landscape units, such as a mountain range, a river basin, or a watershed. (2) A complex of interacting plants and animals with their physical surroundings. Ecosystems are isolated from each other by boundaries which confine and restrict the movement of energy and matter, for example, an ecosystem could be recognized at a watershed scale by designating an area of common drainage (i.e., topography determines movement of water). Also see *Biodiversity*.

**Ecosystem Functions** — (1) The processes through which the constituent living and nonliving elements of ecosystems change and interact. The term *ecological function* is often used in reference to the role or specific contribution of a entity to system behavior. (2) Processes that are necessary for the self-maintenance of an ecosystem such as primary production, nutrient cycling, decomposition, etc. The term is used primarily as a distinction from values.

**Ecosystem Management** — Ecosystem management is an approach to conservation of natural resources and protection of environmental quality that is comprehensive, interdisciplinary in practice, and integrates human systems with natural systems. The primary goal of the ecosystem approach is to restore and sustain the health, productivity and biological diversity of ecosystems and the overall quality of life. It is based on a collaboratively built vision of desired future conditions that integrates ecological, economic and social factors. Stakeholders such as government agencies, private interest groups, and concerned citizens work together to agree on the use, management and preservation of natural resources. In this manner, ecosystem management provides a strategy for pursuing environmental and economic sustainability through an ethic of land-resource stewardship. Application of the ecosystem approach to developing management strategies involves identifying the relationships between sites, plant communities, ecosystems, watersheds the landscape or ecoregions in which they occur - the geographic framework is defined by natural, geomorphologic features and ecological boundaries. Environmental factors and ecological processes are inventoried and analyzed to identify important components and interactions within natural systems that influence the long term health and productivity of the landscape. Overall, the ecosystem approach entails: 1) fostering the type and extent of land uses that are consistent with maintaining ecosystem health over the long term; 2) monitoring of the functional level of ecological services, the restorativity of renewable resources, and the quality of environmental resources; 3) sustaining the productivity of renewable resources in aquatic, terrestrial and transitional ecosystems; 4) promoting the participation of a full diversity of stakeholders; and 5) using an adaptive approach to design and test management strategies for the long term productivity and health of natural resources.

**Enlibra Doctrine** — A set of environmental policy principles prepared by the Western Governors' Association (WGA) that symbolizes balance and stewardship as a means for reconciling economic development with sustaining natural resources. The doctrine speaks to greater

participation and collaboration by citizens in resources decision making and promotes the use of market forces as tools to achieve resource conservation goals. A goal of Enlibra is to encourage people on all sides of resources issues to respect different values and to give affected parties a role in designing and implementing solutions. Principles and characteristics of the doctrine include:

[1] Greater participation and collaboration in decision making by citizens who believe natural resources can be protected while still using them;
[2] Focusing on results and not on programs;
[3] Using tools other than regulations to protect and improve resources management and environmental quality;
[4] Allowing local solutions for meeting national standards;
[5] Replacing confrontation with collaboration;
[6] Using science instead of subjectivity for policy making;
[7] Using cost-effective means for achieving benefits;
[8] Managing resources according to natural boundaries, not political or administrative ones.

[*Source Information:* Western Governors' Association, February 24, 1998, Policy Resolution 98-001]

**Environment** — All of the external factors, conditions, and influences which affect the growth, development, and survival of organisms or a community. The components of an environment include climate, physical, chemical, and biological factors, nutrients, and social and cultural conditions. These influences affect the form and survival of individuals and communities.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** — An environmental analysis prepared pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)* that presents the first thorough examination of alternative plans to positively demonstrate that the environmental and social consequences of an applicable project or action were considered. If it is determined that proposed actions would not have a significant impact on the environment, then a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be issued. If it is shown that such activities do, in fact, significantly impact the environment or are otherwise deemed controversial, then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will normally be required.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** — A report required by Section 102(2)(c) of Public Law 91–190, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for all major projects which significantly impact on the quality of the human environment or are environmentally controversial. The EIS is a detailed and formal evaluation of the favorable and adverse environmental, natural resource and social impacts of a proposed project and its alternatives. A tool for decision making, the EIS describes the positive and negative effects of an undertaking and cites possible, less environmentally disruptive alternative actions.

**Environmental permit (to appropriate water)** — A temporary permit to appropriate water to avoid the pollution or contamination of a water source. (NRS 533.437)

**Estray** — Any livestock running at large upon public or private lands, whose owner is unknown in the section where the animal is found. Livestock include cattle, horses and burros, swine, goats, sheep, and poultry. (NRS 569.005)

**Exotic Species** — A non-native species that is introduced into an area.

**Farmland, Prime** — As defined in the *Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981*: Land that has the

best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses (urban areas are not included). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed for the economic production of sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed (including water management) according to acceptable farming methods. Prime farmland includes land that is being used currently to produce livestock and timber, but it excludes land committed to urban development or water storage.

**Fauna** — The assemblage of animals occurring in a specified area or period. Fauna may include insects, fishes, birds and other groups within the animal kingdom.

**Flora** — The entire assemblage of plant species in a specified area or time. (2) The sum total of the kinds of plants in an area at one time. All plant life associated with a given habitat, country, area, or period. *Bacteria* are considered flora.

**Forest Land** — Land which is at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for non-forest use. Lands developed for non-forest use include areas for crops, improved pasture, residential, or administrative areas, improved roads of any width, and adjoining road clearing and power line clearings.

**Fragmentation of Habitat** — (Ecology) (1) A process by which large, contiguous blocks of habitat are broken into smaller patches isolated from each other by a landscape matrix dissimilar to the original habitat. (2) Interruption of large expanses of one type of habitat or vegetation by man-made clearings. Generally used where roads or areas of cropland are cleared within relatively undisturbed wildland areas, thereby breaking-up a large continuous area of natural plant cover.

**Game Fish** — Those species of fish considered to possess sporting qualities on fishing tackle, such as salmon, trout, black bass, striped bass, etc.; usually more sensitive to environmental changes than rough fish.

**Great Basin [Nevada]** — The hydrographic Great Basin encompasses a region of unique inward-draining basins and watersheds covering most of Nevada and much of western Utah and portions of southern Oregon and Idaho, and southeastern California. The region consists of a continuous series of high mountain ranges and basins that contain desert valleys, sinks (playas), dry lake beds, and salt flats. The Great Basin is characterized by the fact that all surface waters drain inward to terminal lakes, sinks or playas. Portions of Nevada which are excluded from the Great Basin include the extreme north-central portion of the state, where surface waters drain northward into the Snake River Basin, part of the Columbia River System, and the south-eastern portion of Nevada where surface waters drain into the Colorado River Basin. Within the Great Basin, major river drainage systems located wholly or partially in Nevada include: (1) the Truckee River, whose source is Lake Tahoe (Basin) in the Sierra Nevada and located partly in California and Nevada and whose terminus is Pyramid Lake in western Nevada; (2) the Carson River, whose west and east forks originate along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada in California and whose terminus is the Carson Sink (Playa) in west-central Nevada; (3) the Walker River, whose west and east forks also originate along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada in California and whose terminus is Walker Lake in western Nevada; and (4) the Humboldt River, the only major river wholly contained within Nevada and whose principal source is the Ruby, Jarbidge and Independence Mountains in eastern Nevada and whose terminus is the Humboldt Sink in west-central Nevada. Pyramid Lake and Walker Lake in western Nevada represent the only lake remnants of the ancient Lake

Lahontan, an Ice Age lake that covered a considerable portion of northwestern Nevada during much of the Pleistocene Epoch of some two million to 10,000 years before present. At its peak elevation, this ancient lake joined all these river systems of western and northern Nevada. The Great Salt Lake in western Utah, the last major lake remnant of the ancient Ice Age Lake Bonneville, which once covered a large portion of northwester Utah and spilled over into eastern Nevada, is also contained within the Great Basin and serves as the terminus for surface water drainage from the western slopes of the Wasatch Range in north-central Utah.

**Greenhouse Effect** — The phenomenon whereby the earth's atmosphere traps solar radiation, caused by the presence in the atmosphere of gases such as carbon dioxide, water vapor, and methane that allow incoming sunlight to pass through but absorb heat radiated back from the earth's surface. As the amount of carbon dioxide increases due to the combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation, especially of tropical rain forests, scientists propose that more heat energy will be retained by the earth's atmosphere, resulting in climate changes and melting of the polar ice, thus raising the global sea level. An accelerated change in climate could pose extreme problems for the world's prime agricultural areas. A significant rise in seal level could flood many coastal cities and damage ecologically important coastal wetlands. Other heat-absorbing gases that are increasing in the atmosphere as a result of human activities are nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons.

**Ground Water Basin** — A ground-water reservoir together with all the overlying land surface and the underlying aquifers that contribute water to the reservoir. In some cases, the boundaries of successively deeper aquifers may differ in a way that creates difficulty in defining the limits of the basin. A ground-water basin could be separated from adjacent basins by geologic boundaries or by hydrologic boundaries.

**Habitat** — (1) Living place, includes provisions for life. (2) The native environment or specific surroundings where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives. The surroundings include physical factors such as temperature, moisture, and light together with biological factors such as the presence of food or predator organisms. The term can be employed to define surroundings on almost any scale from marine habitat, which encompasses the oceans, to micro-habitat in a hair follicle of the skin.

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** — A requirement under the *Endangered Species Act (ESA)* when economic development may result in harm to *Threatened* or *Endangered Species*. The plan does allow for some loss of individual animals or habitat of a species in exchange for a commitment that will insure long-term survival. Its intent is to better balance economic development and conservation.

**Heap Leaching (Mining)** — Heap leaching is a chemical process used to extract precious and other metals from vast amounts of earth and rock material. Tiny gold and silver particles dispersed throughout massive ore bodies can be economically recovered by leaching operations. The reactive nature of the chemicals used presents an environmental risk if care is not taken. Large quantities of naturally-occurring heavy metals and mineral salts are exposed and concentrated through this mining process. In the case of gold mining, a dilute cyanide solution is sprinkled over heaps of crushed rock, underlain by synthetic liners. The cyanide chemically bonds with the microscopic gold particles, which are then collected at the bottom of the heap in plastic liners for further processing. After the metal bearing solution has been removed by this process, the heaps become a waste product requiring management and

control well into the future. Heaps with residual dilute cyanide solution may contain residual cyanide, selenium, arsenic, mercury and various salts. The drainage solution may be hazardous to surface and groundwater supplies and the environment if not properly monitored and controlled. Mine operators work with state and/or federal agencies to satisfy regulations requiring the assessment of potential environmental impacts and the use of technologies and management practices that tend to avoid, minimize or mitigate environmental quality and wildlife impacts through appropriate mine design, operation and closure practices.

**High water mark** — The mean high water line to which high water ordinarily reaches, not including flood waters. (NRS 322.1007)

**Historic site** — A site, landmark or monument of historical significance pertaining to the white man's history of Nevada, or Indian campgrounds, shelters, petroglyphs, pictographs and burials. Historic means after the middle of the 18th century. (NRS 381.195)

**Hydrographic Area [Nevada]** — The 232 subdivisions (256 *Hydrographic Areas* and *Hydrographic Sub-Areas*) of the 14 Nevada *Hydrographic Regions* as defined by the State Engineer's Office, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources. Primarily these are sub-drainage systems within the 14 major drainage basins. Hydrographic areas (valleys) may be further subdivided into hydrographic sub-areas based on unique hydrologic characteristics (e.g., differences in surface flows) within a given valley or area.

**Hydrographic Region [Nevada]** — Nevada has been divided into 14 hydrographic regions or basins, which are now used by the Nevada Division of Water Resources, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to compile information pertaining to water resources and water use. These regions are also further subdivided into 232 Hydrographic Areas (256 Hydrographic Areas and Sub-Areas, combined) for more detailed study.

**Integrated Resource Planning (IRP)** — A comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to resource planning that encompasses resource assessment, demand considerations, analysis of alternatives, risk management, resource diversity, environmental considerations, least-cost analysis, multidimensional modeling, and participatory decision making and public input, among other factors. Integrated Resource Planning begins with specific policy objectives that are applied to extensive lists of options for water supply sources, distribution systems, or other operational requirements. The options are then narrowed after evaluating demand requirements, environmental impacts, conservation options, costs, risks, and other aspects of a project. IRP involves a dynamic process of assessing demand and supply conditions and creatively integrating alternatives and new technologies. While the concepts of IRP are relatively new to the process of water planning, it has been used extensively in the energy industry. As a planning process it helps decision makers select the best mix of water resources, facilities, and conservation measures to meet water demands. In addition to traditional planning techniques, IRP also

[1] Includes extensive public involvement;

[2] Considers both supply-side (resources and facilities) and demand-side (conservation) alternatives as ways of meeting demands;

[3] Considers goals and objectives in addition to dollar costs (e.g., environmental concerns, public acceptability, etc.);

[4] Considers uncertainty in demand forecasts, regulations, etc.; and
[5] Considers the effect of water rates on water demands.

**Invasive Weeds** — Non-native plants that rapidly reproduce, invade and replace natural plant communities, thereby dramatically changing the composition, structure and function of ecosystems. Invasive weeds also reduce the productivity of farmland, rangeland, forests, wildlife habitat, wetlands and watersheds. Many invasive weeds are also noxious weeds.

**Multiple use** — Multiple use includes: (1) management of state lands and their resources so the combination of uses will best meet the needs of the residents of this state; (2) use of state lands and some or all of the resources or related services in areas large enough to allow for periodic adjustments in the use of the land to conform to changing needs and conditions; (3) use of certain state lands for less than all of their available resources; (4) balanced and diverse use of resources which takes into account the long-term needs of residents of Nevada for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including without limit recreational areas, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historic areas; (5) harmonious and coordinated management of state lands and their various resources without the permanent impairment of the productivity of the lands and the quality of the environment, giving consideration to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will produce the greatest yield or economic return for each parcel of land. (NRS 321.0005)

**Natural Resource** — A material source of wealth, such as timber, fresh water, or a mineral deposit, that occurs in a natural state and has economic and/or value. Natural resources are considered *nonrenewable* when they do not naturally replenish themselves within the limits of human time (e.g., minerals, metals) or *renewable* when they are more or less continuously replenished in the course of natural events within the limits of human time (e.g., wildlife, vegetation, water).

**Navigable rivers** — A river of stream that is used, or is susceptible of being used in its ordinary condition for trade or travel in the customary modes of trade or travel on rivers or streams. (NRS 532.220) The rivers and lakes recognized as *navigable* water bodies in Nevada are the Carson, Colorado, Truckee and Virgin Rivers; and Lake Tahoe, Walker Lake and Washoe Lake.

**Noxious Weed** — Non-native, invasive plants which, when introduced, quickly dominate the landscape and crowd out native plants. Noxious weeds can cause disease or injure crops, livestock or land, and thus are detrimental to agriculture, commerce or public health.

**Open-Pit Mining** — The process of removing mineral deposits that are found close enough to the surface so that the construction of tunnels (underground mining) is not necessary. The soil and strata that cover the deposit are removed to gain access to the mineral deposit. Primary environmental concerns related to this technique are the disposition of spoils removed to gain access to the deposit and the scoring of the landscape that remains following the complete removal of the mineral deposit. Erosion and water pollution are also concerns if runoff from the mining area is not properly controlled. Where a pit is excavated below the water table, groundwater draining into the mining pit is often removed, potentially altering the flow of groundwater flow and connected water tables. Mine operators work with state and/or federal

agencies to satisfy regulations requiring the assessment of potential environmental impacts and the use of practices that tend to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts through appropriate mine design, operation and closure practices.

**Open Space** — A term that describes relatively large areas within or surrounding a city or town that contain little or no development (i.e., man-made structures) and where natural or undisturbed conditions predominate. Such lands may be targeted for preservation for the purpose of retaining natural resources and associated quality of life benefits. Natural attributes often associated with open space include water bodies, wetlands and riparian corridors, sensitive species habitat, recreation trails and parks, wildlife habitat and migration corridors, scenic vistas and viewpoints, agricultural land, and watershed recharge areas.

**Planning** — A comprehensive study of present trends and of probable future developments, together with recommendations of policies to be pursued. Planning embraces such subjects as population growth and distribution; social forces; availability of land, water, minerals, and other natural resources; technological progress; and probable future revenues, expenditures, and financial policies. Planning must be responsive to rapidly changing conditions.

**Prehistoric Site** — Prehistoric site means any archeological or paleontological site, ruin, deposit, fossilized footprints and other impressions, petroglyphs and pictographs, habitation caves, rock shelters, natural caves or burial ground. Prehistoric means before middle of the 18th century. (NRS 381.195)

**Public Lands** — All lands within the exterior boundaries of the State of Nevada *except* lands: (a) to which title is held by any private person or entity; (b) to which title is held by the State of Nevada, any of its local governments or the University and Community College System of Nevada; (c) which are located within congressionally authorized national parks, monuments, national forests or wildlife refuges or which are lands acquired by purchase consented to by the legislature; (d) which are controlled by the U.S. Department of Defense, Department of Energy or Bureau of Reclamation; or (e) which are held in trust for Indian purposes or are Indian reservations. (NRS 321.655)

**Range** — (1) Geographic region in which a given plant or animal lives and grows. (2) Lands that support shrubs, grasses and forbs suitable for grazing by livestock and wildlife species. The following represent some common range classifications:

[1] ***Range, Primary*** — Includes areas which are readily accessible, have available water and will be overused before livestock significantly graze other areas;

[2] ***Range, Secondary*** — Areas less preferred by livestock which will ordinarily not be grazed significantly until the primary range has been overused;

[3] ***Range, Suitable*** — Lands that are or can be made accessible to livestock, that produce forage or have inherent forage producing capabilities, and that can be grazed on a sustained yield basis under given management goals;

[4] ***Range, Transitory*** — Lands temporarily suitable for grazing, but transient over time and/or location, for example, grass may cover an area for a period before being replaced by growth not suitable for forage;

[5] ***Range, Unsuitable*** — Areas that should not be grazed by livestock because of unstable soils, steep topography, or inherent low potential for forage production.

**Range Condition** — The state of the plant community on a range site in relation to the potential

natural plant community for that site. Formerly, ratings generally followed categories of poor, fair, good, or excellent, based upon the percentage of climax plant community occurring on the range site. The Natural Resources Conservation Service no longer uses the term.

**Rangeland** — Landscape or ecosystem on which the dominant plant community is grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, shrubs or a mix of such vegetation. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, marshes and wet meadows. The term rangeland often implies forage land for wild and domestic grazing animals.

**Reclamation** — Actions performed during or after land disturbance (e.g., mining operation, wildland fire, development site grading) to reshape, stabilize, revegetate or otherwise treat the land in order to return it to a safe, stable, and useful condition consistent with the establishment of a productive post-mining use of the land and the abandonment of a facility in a manner which ensures the public safety as well as the encouragement of techniques which minimize the adverse visual effects. (NRS 519A.100) The term also is associated with adapting wildland or natural resources to serve utilitarian human purposes such as conversion of wetlands to agricultural or urban uses.

**Reforestation** — Planting and cultivation of conservation plant material which are indigenous or adaptable to forests, plains, meadows, deserts and urban areas of Nevada. (NRS 528.097)

**Rehabilitation** — Making the land useful again after natural or man-caused disturbance. Rehabilitation involves reestablishing stable landscapes that support natural ecosystems, but do no necessarily strive to recreate predisturbance conditions.

**Renewable energy resources** — Renewable energy resources means wind, solar, geothermal and biomass energy resources in this state that are naturally generated. (NRS 704.989)

**Renewable natural resources** — Includes land, soil, water, vegetation, trees, natural landscape and open space. (NRS 548.069)

**Restoration** — The act or process of bringing something back to a previous condition or position. For example, the re-establishment of natural land contours and vegetative cover following extensive degradation of the environment. Ecosystem restoration is reestablishment of the structure and function of ecosystems as closely as possible to predisturbance conditions. It is intended to result in self-sustaining behavior of the ecosystem.

**Solid waste** — All putrescible and non-putrescible refuse in solid or semisolid form, including but not limited to, garbage, rubbish, junk vehicles, ashes or incinerator residue, street refuse, dead animals, demolition waste, construction waste, solid or semisolid commercial and industrial waste. The term does not include hazardous waste managed pursuant to 459.400 to 459.600, inclusive.

**Sustainable development** — A land or water development strategy that manages first and foremost natural resources and human resources as well as financial and physical assets for maintaining long-term wealth and well-being. Sustainable development as a planning principle supports policies and encourages planning and management practices that maintain and improve the long term productivity of the natural resource base, and that leave future generations with better prospects and lesser risks than our own. The Departmental Strategic Plan, through the Natural Resources Plan, encourages the coordinated development of interdisciplinary planning processes that provide for the effective conservation of and the sustainable use of Nevada's biological, land, air, water, recreational resources, while actively protecting, managing and enhancing the environment and natural ecosystems for current and

future generations.

**Sustained Yield** — The maintenance of a high-level annual or other periodic yield from the various renewable resources of state lands consistent with multiple use. (NRS 321.0005)

**Timberland** — Forest land where tree species such as ponderosa pine or white fir traditionally used for industrial wood products, make up at least 10 percent stocking. (*Nevada Forest Stewardship Program, Five Year Plan, 1997 -2002*, December 1997, NDF Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee)

**Waters of the State** — All waters situated wholly or partly within or bordering upon this state, including but not limited to all stream, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marshes, water courses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems and drainage systems and all bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial. (NRS 445A.415)

**Watershed areas** — (1) An area that, because of topographic slope, contributes water to a specified surface water drainage system, such as a stream or river. An area confined by topographic divides that drains a given stream or river. (2) (Catchment) The natural or disturbed unit of land on which all of the water that falls (or emanates from springs or melts from snowpacks), collects by gravity, and fails to evaporate, runs off via a common outlet. (3) All lands enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lying upslope from a specified point on a stream; a region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular water course or body of water. Also referred to as *Water Basin* or *Drainage Basin*. (4) A ridge of relatively high land dividing two areas that are drained by different river systems.

**Wetlands** — Wetlands are those areas where water saturation is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the surrounding environment. The identification of wetlands and associated habitats is regulated by complex federal legislation. The *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*, the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)*, the U.S. *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)* (formerly the *Soil Conservation Service — SCS*), and the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*, have developed definitions of wetlands in response to their regulatory responsibilities. The features that all wetlands have in common is a soil or substrate that is saturated with water during at least a part of the growing season and types of plants and animals specially adapted to these conditions. Other common names for wetlands are sloughs, ponds, swamps, bogs, and marshes. Basically, all definitions of wetlands require that one or more attributes be met:

[1] ***Wetland Hydrology*** — At some point of time in the growing season the substrate is periodically or permanently saturated with or covered by water;

[2] ***Hydrophytic Vegetation*** — At least periodically, the land supports predominantly water-loving plants such as cattails, rushes, or sedges;

[3] ***Hydric Soils*** — The area contains undrained, wet soil which is anaerobic, or lacks oxygen in the upper levels.

**Wildlife** – Any wild mammal, wild bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, mollusk or crustacean found naturally in a wild state, whether indigenous to Nevada or not and whether raised in captivity or not. (NRS 501.097)

**Woodland** — All forest land consisting of non-timber species not traditionally used for industrial

products. Such species include juniper, pinon pine, cottonwood, willow, aspen, as well as others. (*Nevada Forest Stewardship Program, Five Year Plan, 1997 -2002*, December 1997, NDF Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee)